

**City of Eugene**  
**Chronological History of Homeless Efforts & Actions**  
**1947 to Present**

- 1947 Eugene allows camping by returning WW II vets, in Eugene to attend University of Oregon but with no housing available, in 100 sq ft trailers obtained from Portland's war effort, in a muddy cow pasture in West Eugene, now Sladden Park in Whiteaker Neighborhood.  
*Status: This initiative no longer in existence.*
- 1967 City created a special land use zone for the Eugene Mission to allow them to move to their current location on W. First Avenue.  
*Status: Special land use zone still in effect.*
- 1970 Family Shelter House opened with City assistance, on E. 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, at the site that became the "Animal House". The facility moved to its current location, 969 Hwy. 99 N, in 1977.  
*Status: This facility still in operation.*
- 1983 City of Eugene Vagrancy Task Force established. (Chaired by a City Councilor)  
*Status: Prohibited camping ordinance adopted, but recommendations for companion service funding were not implemented.*
- 1987 City Council Social Goals Committee (Three Councilors and a Planning Commissioner) established.  
*Status: A new focus on the creation of low-income housing, reviving a program to landbank sites (this included purchasing the Walnut Grove site, now nearing build-out, with 103 subsidized and 58 market rate rental and ownership unit), and the expansion and rehabilitation of the Family Shelter House and the creation of the Intergovernmental Housing Policy Board (HPB). Family Shelter still exists but budget cuts have resulted in a drop from 29 to 21 available units. The HPB still exists. (Note: publicly assisted emergency housing assistance has generally decreased. For instance; in 1990-91 there were 96 motel vouchers. These vouchers no longer exist. )*
- 1988 Opportunity Shelter opened as part of a community effort, spearheaded by the Eugene City Manager and the County Administrator, to house 50 homeless families by Thanksgiving. The effort started on November 1<sup>st</sup>.  
*Status: The shelter operated for two years at 1990 Amazon, during which time its effectiveness and other alternatives were evaluated (see below). The 4J school district donated the space, which continues to be used for homeless assistance.*
- 1989 Planning commission completes a study related to affordable housing. This includes adopting limitations on MH park closures, zoning changes such as duplex units on corner lots, reducing parking for affordable housing projects, and a controlled income and rent density bonus.  
*Status: There became increased options for low-income housing development. Some of the changes were amended or lost during the land use code update process.*

**City of Eugene**  
**Chronological History of Homeless Efforts & Actions**  
**1947 to Present**

- 1989 Lane County Task Force on Homelessness and Affordable Housing established.  
*Status: This 23 member task force with broad-based membership created a blueprint for future housing efforts that remain in effect today. Recommendations for a stable funding source were not adopted by the Board of Commissioners. But the creation of the HPB was a direct result.*
- 1990 Housing Policy Board (HPB) formed, by intergovernmental agreement, between Lane County, Eugene, Springfield, and HACSA. This public-private partnership prioritizes permanent housing over emergency housing and sets a goal of adding 100 new rental housing units per year.  
*Status: As of June 2005, 1,526 subsidized rental housing units have either been added or are in the pipeline for completion. Many are rented to formerly homeless households or those at risk of homelessness.*
- 1990 Interfaith Emergency Shelter Program began when the Opportunity Shelter closed due to both funding shortfalls and recognition that this model was not successful. Following a public protest from community members, the City provided seed money for the Interfaith Emergency Shelter Program, rather than implement the proposal by the community members which would have allowed camping at the site of the former Jefferson Pool.  
*Status: This program continues to operate. (St. Vincent dePaul)*
- 1990 Family Access Center established. (now called First Place Family Center)  
*Status: This program began when the Opportunity Shelter closed due to both funding shortfalls and recognition that this model was not successful. This was a critical companion program to the Interfaith Shelter. This program continues to operate at 1990 Amazon. (St. Vincent dePaul)*
- 1991 Special cold weather/snow emergency shelter opened at Whiteaker School during winter vacation.  
*Status: This was a one-time compassionate response. It did result in what may have been the most accurate local homeless census ever – 599 people at various shelters on Christmas Eve.*
- 1992 Department of Public Safety revised its camping policy.  
*Status: Police enforcement actions became more complaint-oriented, rather than proactive.*
- 1993 Centennial Car Camp created (following a recommendation from the Human Rights Commission). Centennial Car Camp operated during three winter seasons, ending in June 1995.  
*Status: Eugene became, perhaps, the first city since post World War II to try a homeless camp. It focused attention on this community problem and provided a legal alternative to illegal camping on the streets. It also helped the State of Oregon close an illegal homeless camp at Armitage Park. The camp was*

**City of Eugene**  
**Chronological History of Homeless Efforts & Actions**  
**1947 to Present**

*envisioned to be used by adults, but households with children lived there as well. It closed for reasons that included eroding intergovernmental financial support, management challenges, and siting concerns.*

- 1993 Shelter Work Group looked for a permanent campground and other solutions.  
*Status: No identified solution, but a great deal of education about the extraordinary challenges of siting and operating an urban campground for homeless people.*
- 1993 New Roads School and Youth Access Center opened in December.  
*Status: This program still operates (Looking Glass).*
- 1994 New Shelter Work Group created.  
*Status: Another committee, chaired by a State Representative (and former City Councilor) tried again, with little success, to identify options to address the impacts of the growing homeless population.*
- 1995 “Cracking the Housing Crisis”, a blueprint for housing action and responses, adopted by Council.  
*Status: Council set housing goals and identified subsidies to encourage the creation of low-income housing and homeless assistance programs. These goals and actions continue.*
- 1995 Council Committee to Finance Affordable Housing recommended a utility tax to address housing and homelessness.  
*Status: The measure failed at the polls in 1996 and a potential revised measure, worked on by a reconstituted committee, was tabled after Measure 47 passed.*
- 1995 Eugene Service Station, an access center for adults, was established with City seed money.  
*Status: This program still exists, at an expanded facility. The building is now shared by the Bethel Police Substation.*
- 1995 Station 7, Looking Glass Youth Shelter, opened with City assistance. It replaced a smaller shelter that Looking Glass had operated since 1970. It was named Station 7, because the building was formerly a fire station.  
*Status: This program continues to operate as the only youth shelter.*
- 1996 Utility Tax to support housing and homelessness rejected by voters.  
*Status: Funding for homeless programs has not kept up with increased demands.*
- 1997 Council Homeless and Shelter Task Force created. (Mayor and Two Councilors). This task force was later renamed: Council Committee on Homelessness and Youth (CCHY).

**City of Eugene**  
**Chronological History of Homeless Efforts & Actions**  
**1947 to Present**

*Status: There became an increased local awareness of the complex issues related to homelessness and the growing problems associated with homeless youth. Council adopted a variety of CCHY's recommendations. (See below)*

- 1997 Homeless Action Coalition's "Campaign for Legal Places to Sleep" issued.  
*Status: CCHY recommended an ordinance change. (see below)*
- 1997 Council approved an ordinance that allowed camping on streets in industrial areas, at churches and at private residents, as a result of CCHY's recommendation.  
*Status: Significant camping problems in some residential neighborhoods were dramatically reduced, but new problems were created in industrial areas. Lessons were learned.*
- 1997 The Safe Place Project initiated to provide transportation to emergency services for youth in crisis. Program received support from the City of Eugene.  
*Status: The program still operates.*
- 1998 Council approved CCHY's recommendation for special funding for program expansion at Station 7 and Eugene Service Station.  
*Status: Station 7 was able to help more youth, until the funding ran out. Station 7 was able to permanently expand its services. The program had a shelter capacity of 13, but it is now at 10 due to budget cuts in 2003. The program also had to cut its daytime non-school hour activities.*
- 1998 Council repealed camping in industrial areas and expanded camping options at businesses and public property, based on CCHY's recommendation. SVDP received a contract for on-street facilitation services. City provided 15 camping spaces and encouraged intergovernmental partners, churches, and businesses to provide spaces.  
*Status: This program continues to operate and is generally regarded as very successful.*
- 1998 Council funded CCHY's recommendation for "Summit Summer" youth recreation and jobs program targeted to homeless and at-risk youth.  
*Status: This program was successful, but no long-term funding was identified.*
- 1998 Council funded the CCHY's recommended pilot "Homeshare" program.  
*Status: This very successful and cost-effective program matched people with extra rooms in their homes with people who needed housing. It eventually closed when permanent funding could not be secured.*
- 1998 Council funded a pilot project to place porta-potties in selected locations.  
*Status: The program recognized that sanitation is a very big problem associated with homelessness. Placing portable toilets proved to be a significant challenge and the experiment was not continued.*

**City of Eugene**  
**Chronological History of Homeless Efforts & Actions**  
**1947 to Present**

- 1990 City of Eugene Interdepartmental Community Action Team (ICAT) created to convene staff from various departments to address critical issues, including homelessness.  
*Status: ICAT currently meets to discuss various issues, including those relating to homelessness.*
- 2001-2002 Housing Policy Board and Human Services Commission jointly sponsored the Homeless Prevention Task Force which issued a preliminary report on homelessness.  
*Status: At about the same time that the report was preliminary report was issued, the economy dipped and State instituted dramatic budget cuts to services. It overwhelmed the prevention concepts and funding options.*
- 2002 Community protest around homelessness included a park block tree-sitter.  
*Status: The protest dissipated and the CCHY met again. They held meetings with homeless youth and eventually successfully recommended special three-year funding for the Safe and Sound program.*
- 2003 Council approved CCHY's recommendation to fund Safe & Sound substance abuse services for homeless youth through 2006.  
*Status: Eugene's contribution has leveraged nearly a half million dollars in private foundation funding during the last two years and provides comprehensive and coordinated behavioral health services for more than 800 youth each year. Safe & Sound is partnering with Community Health Centers of Lane County to secure Medicaid reimbursements. However, many of the pre-treatment services are not eligible for reimbursement and the partnership with the City is critical to ensure continued success. The Safe & Sound strategy of business, public safety, social services working together was effective in the downtown area and is now being replicated in the Monroe Park vicinity. Additional funding is necessary to reach homeless youth in that area.*
- 2004 Lane County, as part of their HUD 2004 Continuum of Care application, submitted a plan to end chronic homelessness.  
*Status: Funding already directed to this effort, and the City approved a response to a housing RFP to add new housing for homeless veterans at the "Vet Lift" project.*
- 2005 Council identified "helping the homeless" as a priority initiative
- 2006 Council allocated \$150,000 in one time money toward homeless prevention activities. They also directed the Mayor to appoint a committee to identify a stable, sustainable funding source to address homelessness issues.
- 2007 Council renewed the \$150,000 allocation from 2006. The "Blue Ribbon Committee" was appointed and began meeting.